

Application No.: 10/674999

Case No.: 58227US002

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 54 are pending. By way of the present amendment, claims 1, 7, 27, 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 46, 51 and 53 are amended, claims 6, 31, 42, 50 and 52 are canceled, and new claims 55 to 59 are added. Applicants submit that the amended claims and newly submitted claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

Claims 27, 28, 30, 32-35, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 53 and 54 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0163570 A1 (Vanmaele).

Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15, 19 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over, US 6,586,104 (Matsuda).

Claims 1-4, 10-12, 15, 26, 45 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over, Vanmaele.

Claims 7-9, 14, 16-18, 20-25, 31, 40, 42, 51 and 52 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing in the various rejections, and reserving the right to re-present any of the rejected claims in a properly filed continuation application, Applicants submit that the present amendment has rendered these rejections moot in that all of the claims now incorporate all the limitations of one or more of the claims indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and solicit early indication of allowance of all claims as presently amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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